GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1079
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
POLICY INITIATIVES FOR PROMOTION OF SPORTS/ GAMES
Channappa Shri Kunnur Manjunath

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy initiatives taken or being taken by the Government for the promotion of sports and games in the country;

(b) the details of sports talents noticed as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for development of sports and sports related infrastructural facilities in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c): The promotion of Sports is mainly the responsibility of the State governments and Sports Federations. However, Government of India, through its own schemes and schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments and Federations in the promotion of sports.

Towards this end, the Government of India runs following schemes to boost sports in the country:

1. Scheme relating to Incentives for the Promotion of Sports Activities.
The Scheme has the following five components:
(a) Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons
(b) Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools
(c) Rural Sports Programme
(d) Sports Scholarship Scheme
(e) National Sports Development Fund

2. Schemes relating to Awards:
These include:

(i) (a) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards
(b) Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches
(c) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy for the best University.

(ii) Arjuna Awards

(ii) Dronacharya Awards

(iii) Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievements in Sports and Games

3. National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons.

4. National Sports Championship for Women

5. Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations

6. Talent Search & Training.

In addition, the Sports Authority of India implements the following sports promotion schemes in the country: -
1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
3. SAI Training Centre (STC)
4. Special Area Games Centres (SAG)
5. Centres of Excellence (COX).

Sportspersons who have excelled at the international level in prestigious events like the Olympics, Asian and Commonwealth Games

and World Championships were benefited from the above schemes of the Government as well as through of SAI. Sportspersons like Lt. Col. R.V.S. Rathore, Anju Bobby George, Abhinav Bindra, Anjali Bhagwat, Gagan Narang, Samresh Jung and Pankaj Advani were assisted and provided financial and technical support both within the country and abroad.

Till 31st March, 2005, the Ministry was providing assistance to State Governments etc, for creation of sports facilities based on specific proposals received from time to time as per the guidelines of the scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructures. However, w.e.f. 1st April 2005 the scheme was transferred to the State Sector. No fresh projects are, therefore, being funded by the Government of India, but funds to the extent of committed liabilities for the ongoing approved projects would be given only during the remaining period of X Five Year Plan. However, in view of the shortage of sports infrastructure, particularly in the rural areas, the Ministry is considering launching of a Scheme, `Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan` with the objective of providing access to large sections of the youth and children to organized games and sports, both as an activity integral to the development of the youth, and to widen the catchment for scouting and nurturing talent and impro ving performance in competitive sports at the National and International levels. Discussions regarding the Scheme are underway with the State Governments and other stake-holders concerned.